

Atty. Docket No. 440334

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments and remarks hereto attend to all outstanding issues in the pending Office Action of 1 August 2005. Claims 2-11 are pending in this application as of the current Office Action. Claims 2-11 are canceled herewith without prejudice. Claims 12-30 are new.

In the Claims

Claim 12 is supported in the specification as filed at page 3, lines 11-12, page 4, lines 9-12, page 5, lines 5-6, page 6, lines 20-21, and by Fig. 1, Fig. 4 and Fig. 5. Claim 12 is believed patentable at least because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a body member forming a downwardly facing, semi-circular recess along a width of the body member so as to receive a lateral restraint of a ski-lift chair therein, and at least one frame member that mounts over a top surface of the body member, the frame member forming a viewable region.

Claim 13 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 14-17, and by Fig. 1. Claim 13 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest screws that screw upwardly, through holes formed by the body member, into the frame member.

Claim 14 is supported by Fig. 1. Claim 14 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a central frame member, a left frame member and a right frame member.

Claim 15 is supported by Fig. 1. Claim 14 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the central frame member forming a width that is about one half of the width of the body member.

Claim 16 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 17-19, and by Fig. 1. Claim 16 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claims 12 and 14 which are believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose

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or suggest the left and right frame members each being held in place by two screws and two hooks that couple with the body member.

Claim 17 is supported by Fig. 4. Claim 17 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claims 12 and 14 which are believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest left and right frame members each forming a downwardly facing, semi-circular recess to accommodate the lateral restraint.

Claim 18 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 8-13, and by Fig. 1. Claim 18 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the frame member comprising downwardly projecting tabs, each tab comprising a latch tab, the body member comprising openings into which the latch tabs snap into place.

Claim 19 is supported in the specification as filed at page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 2, and by Fig. 2 and Fig. 5. Claim 19 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a body member and the frame member forming a leading edge and right and left sides, the leading edge being swept rearwardly along a width of the leading edge from a center of the leading edge towards the left and right sides.

Claim 20 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 13-14, page 6, lines 19-20 and by Fig. 4. Claim 20 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claims 12 and 19 which are believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the top surface being convex along a direction from the leading edge to a rear edge formed by the body member and frame member.

Claims 21 and 22 are supported by Fig. 4. Claims 21 and 22 are believed patentable at least because they depend from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the body member and frame members, when integrated together, having a width, a thickness and a length, the thickness being less than one-half or less than one-third of the length.

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Claim 23 is supported by Fig. 2 and Fig. 5. Claim 23 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claims 12 and 21 which are believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the width being at least six times the length.

Claim 24 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 20-24, page 6, lines 5-13 and by Fig. 5. Claim 24 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 12 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a body member forming molded recesses for securing screws to facilitate attaching the system to the lateral restraint.

Claim 25 is supported in the specification as filed at page 3, lines 11-12, page 4, lines 9-14, page 5, lines 5-6, page 6, lines 20-21, and by Fig. 1, Fig. 4 and Fig. 5. Claim 25 is believed patentable at least because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a lateral restraint of a ski-lift chair, a body member forming a downwardly facing, semi-circular recess along a width of the body member, the recess receiving the lateral restraint therein, at least one frame member that mounts over a top surface of the body member, and printed media held between the frame member and the body member.

Claim 26 is supported in the specification as filed at page 4, lines 16-17. Claim 26 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 25 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the printed media being protected by a clear plastic film that is at least several mils in thickness.

Claim 27 is supported in the specification as filed at page 4, lines 17-18. Claim 27 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 25 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the printed media comprising imagery that is reverse printed on a bottom side of a clear plastic film.

Claim 28 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 8-14 and by Fig. 1. Claim 28 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 25 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or

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suggest frame members comprising downwardly projecting tabs, the printed media forming corresponding holes for the tabs.

Claim 29 is supported by Fig. 1. Claim 29 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 25 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the at least one frame member including a central frame member, a left frame member and a right frame member.

Claim 30 is supported in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 20-24 and by Fig. 5. Claim 30 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claim 25 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the body member forming a plurality of molded recesses for securing screws that attach the body member to the lateral restraint.

Claims 31 and 32 are supported in the specification as filed at page 6, lines 2-7, and by Fig. 5. Claims 31 and 32 are believed patentable at least because they depend from claim 30 which is believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest one or a plurality of loop members, each loop member having a top flange and a bottom flange that project tangentially from a circle formed by the loop member, the top flange and the bottom flange forming aligned holes, such that one or a plurality of first loop members encircle the lateral restraint, and a screw passes through the aligned holes of each loop member and screws into one of the molded recesses.

Claim 33 is supported in the specification as filed at page 6, lines 7-11, and by Fig. 5. Claim 33 is believed patentable at least because it depends from claims 25 and 30 which are believed patentable, and because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a plurality of loop members, each loop member having a top flange and a bottom flange that project tangentially from a circle formed by the loop member, the top flange and the bottom flange forming aligned holes, such that each loop member encircles the lateral restraint, and a body member forming at least one pair of twin holes, a forward hole of each pair corresponding to each molded recess and a rearward hole of each pair being situated rearward from the semi-circular recess, wherein a screw for each of the loop members may attach to either of the twin holes.

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No new matter is added to the application through any of the claim amendments.

Response to Office Action

The following paragraphs follow the order of the paragraphs in the Office Action mailed 1 August 2005 in this application.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), requiring that the central section being about one third of the width of the body member as defined in claims 4, 7 and 10 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Claims 4, 7 and 10 have been canceled.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to an element of claim 5 having insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite on various grounds. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 2-10 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,301,443 ("Gori") in view of U.S. Design Patent No. 206,518 ("Evans") or U.S. Design Patent No. D419,604 ("Emmett"). Claim 11 was rejected as being unpatentable over Gori in view of Evans or Emmett and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,094,085 ("Nolan, Jr."). Claims 2-11 have been canceled.

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Conclusion

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant has addressed all issues raised in the Office Action dated 1 August 2005, and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

The fee of \$225 for a two-month extension of time for a small entity, and the fee of \$395 for a Request for Continued Examination for a small entity, are enclosed herewith. Since claims 2-11 are canceled herewith, twenty-two claims including two independent claims are pending in this application, thus a \$50 fee for two excess claims for a small entity is also enclosed. Applicant believes no other fees are currently due, however, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

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